



HOTEL

highlights

Treetop dining views

Private river 'beach'

Warm, welcoming staff

OVERVIEW

A paradise of modern-eco-minimalism perched among the trees in Belize's jungle, Gaia Riverlodge hotel is one of those places that you want to keep all to yourself. While you're there, the warm staff are your friends, the hidden riverside 'beach' and swimming holes your backyard pool and your hardwood-and-Mexican-tiled tungalow your home.

 SMITH EXTRA

Here's what you get for booking Gaia Riverlodge with us:

Full American breakfast daily



NEED
to know

ROOMS

21, including one suite.

CHECK-OUT

12noon. Earliest check-in, 2pm.

RATES

Double rooms from \$265.00, excluding tax at 9 per cent. Please note the hotel charges an additional service charge of 10% per on check-out. [T](#)

MORE DETAILS

Rates usually include Continental breakfast.

ALSO

Every evening before dinner, a popular and informal "social hour" is held in the bar area, and guests and staff get together and chat about the day's adventures over an aperitif.

AT THE HOTEL

Mountain bicycles to borrow, river "beach" with palapas and swimming holes, spa, sprawling grounds, free WiFi in main building, in rooms, flashlight, beach towels, screened windows, mosquito netting, purified water in reusable jugs.

OUR FAVOURITE ROOMS

Each cabana is distinct, with its own blend of Mexican tiles, native Belizean hardwoods and handmade local textiles, but the most impressive views can be found in the rooms overlooking the on-site Five Sisters Waterfalls; the Waterfall View Suite even have private terraces with views of the waterfalls.

POOLSIDE

The lodge doesn't have a typical swimming pool, but if you walk down the 200 steps to the Privassion River, deep natural pools filled with mountain spring water await you, lined with soft white sand, sunbathers and palapas shading hammocks and chairs. Drinks and snacks can be delivered to you, and a trolley can take you back up to the restaurant deck.

SPA

The Jungle Spa offers a range of treatments - including massages and facials - using natural and indigenous ingredients in its one treatment room.

PACKING TIPS

Keen eyes for spotting wildlife like the reserve's many wild jaguars, and a good book by one of Belize's most renowned authors, like Zee Edgell, for digging into while lazing on your riverside lounge.

ALSO

Note that the hotel is non-smoking everywhere except on the restaurant deck.

CHILDREN

Children age 10 and older are welcome, but not catered to. The Waterfall View Suite is the best lodging choice for families, as the living room sofa can pull out into a queen bed.

ECO-FRIENDLY

All electricity is supplied from the hotel's own hydro power plant, generated from the river below; to limit usage, there are no heaters, air conditioners or hair dryers in rooms. Most building materials were locally sourced, bath products are eco-friendly and the restaurant's ingredients are grown on-site or sourced locally.



SMITH

insider

DRESS CODE

Easy breezy jungle chic - simple lines and cottons, and maybe a splash of colour to help you fit in with the wildlife.

TOP TABLE

For the full rainforest effect, nab a table at the edge of the deck and watch the jungle canopy spread out before you. Sunset up here - known as the 'purple sunset' to locals - is especially awe-inspiring.

HOTEL RESTAURANT

A veritable treehouse perched over a rainforest ravine and the Privasson River, Gaia Restaurant is an extension of the airy, natural-feeling lobby. The regularly rotating menu, sourced from the on-site organic garden and neighbouring farms, features local Belizean favourites like coconut rice, ceviche soup and empanadas; nightly specials include the popular spicy Creole shrimp. Breakfast includes a range of Continental, American, Belizean and Mayan options, including fresh fruit and yoghurt.

HOTEL BAR

Part of the restaurant and lobby, the open-plan bar is the perfect place to settle in for a cosy evening with a local beer or the Gaia Kiss signature cocktail and make friends with the bartenders.

LAST ORDERS

Breakfast is served from 7 to 10am, lunch from noon to 4pm, dinner from 6.30 to 11pm.

ROOM SERVICE

The full restaurant menu is available in your room during regular restaurant hours.



*Eat, drink, see,
do: local
favourites and
more...*

*Riverside
rainforest
reserve*

WORTH GETTING OUT OF BED FOR

Set in the middle of the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve, Gaia is a prime getaway for outdoors and adventure enthusiasts. On the hotel's grounds alone, there are the makeshift beach and swimming holes on the Pivussian River, a hike for bike ride on borrowed bicycles to swimming at Big Rock Falls and a hiking trail through Broadleaf Forest. The concierge can plan any other adventure further afield that you might have in mind, from a visit to the Mayan ruins at Caracol, cave caving trips, zip-lining excursions and organized visits to the market in San Ignacio.

LOCAL RESTAURANTS

The only other restaurants for miles are the two 20-minute away at [Blancaneaux Lodge](#), [Montagna](#), which boasts a menu of owner Francis Ford Coppola's Italian favourites, and [Guatemala Tropica](#), which specialises in Guatemalan cuisine (+501 824-3878).

GAIA RIVER LODGE

Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo District

At the end of an unpaved road in the middle of Belize's Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve, Gaia River Lodge is picturesque isolated, an island of luxury in the midst of the jungle.

PLANES

Belize City's international airport (BZE), serves direct flights to and from a number of major US cities, including Houston and Miami, with connecting flights to other major international cities. Once in Belize City, you can either continue your journey by car or via a scenic 40-minute flight on TropicAir to the Maya Falls Airstrip, an hour's drive from the lodge. Charter flights can also be arranged to Blancaneaux Airstrip, at neighbouring Blancaneaux Lodge, a 10-minute drive from the hotel.

AUTOMOBILES

Hire a car in Belize City if you want to make the scenic three-hour drive to the hotel and have the freedom to explore the Cayo District more independently. Otherwise, the hotel can arrange transfers from both Maya Falls Airstrip and Blancaneaux Airstrip. Parking at the hotel is free.